MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 MAY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Iraqi forces suffered heavy losses on 16 May during intense fighting along the border from Kushk to the northwest of Khuzestan, according to an armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio. Iranian forces destroyed five Iraqi tanks and a large number of heavy weapons, the communique said. A later military communique carried by the radio claimed that four Iraqi airplanes were shot down over the weekend, bringing the total number of Iraqi aircraft downed since the beginning of the Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] to 37.

Another communique broadcast by the radio said that on 14 May Iranian forces repelled an Iraqi attack on the Khorramshahr front and forced the Iraqis to retreat. The communique said that 50 Iraqis were either killed or wounded and an ammunition dump was destroyed when the Iranian Navy and the Gendarmerie opened fire on Iraqi positions on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts. A 14 May military communique carried by Tehran radio reported that 5,124 Iraqis have been captured since the beginning of the Jerusalem Operation.

According to an Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio, 915 Iranians were killed and 8 tanks were destroyed when Iraqi forces launched an attack on the (Ash-Shihabi) police post on 14 May. Two Iranian helicopters were shot down in this area the next day, the communique asserted. A subsequent INA report said Iraqi forces foiled two Iranian attacks on the police post on 15 May.

Another communique broadcast by Baghdad radio reported that on 16 May 23 Iranians were killed when Iraqi forces attacked Iranian positions north of Khorramshahr. The communique also claimed that two Iranian naval vessels were sunk in the Kur-e Mush area.

Khomeyni, Musavi Remarks -- If the countries of the region act subversively and cooperate with Iraq, "they can be sure that, not being stronger than Saddam, they will suffer the same fate," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni warned in a speech carried by Tehran radio. Earlier in the speech Khomeyni said Iran has nothing against countries which are not corrupt, and he declared that Iran does not have its eyes on other territories. Noting that the material world is not highly regarded by Iranians, Khomeyni said Iran would not start a war with Muslim countries for materialistic reasons.

During a press conference reported by IRNA, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi declared that Iran does not intend to invade Iraqi territory or any other territory. Musavi said the condition for the establishment of peace in the region is the overthrow of the Iraqi president, according to a later IRNA report. He declared that Iran would never accept an imposed peace in its war with Iraq. According to an AFP report on the press conference, Musavi warned that the sending of Egyptian troops to Iraq could set the whole region ablaze and bring down the Egyptian president.

Gulf Concern Over War -- GCC foreign ministers held an emergency session in Kuwait on 15 May to discuss the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war, KUNA reported. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said after the meeting that no final statement had been issued because the ministers will hold further contacts over the next 2 weeks before resuming talks in Riyadh on 30 May, Kuwait radio reported. The GCC ministers will seek to crystalize a unified stand toward the Iran-Iraq conflict, the foreign minister said. On the same day, SPA reported that Saudi newspapers expressed confidence that the GCC ministers would be able to devise a "workable formula" to settle the Iran-Iraq war.

In its 15 May press review, Riyadh radio announced that the Arab states had informed Iran that they will implement the joint Arab defense pact if Iraqi territory is subjected to aggression. The radio gave no further details of this warning. Meanwhile, Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan said in an interview with Kuwait's AL-ANBA' that the Soviet Union will soon declare open and direct support for Iran, KUNA reported. Sultan warned that the Gulf region could become a theater of Soviet-U.S. conflict as a result of the Iran-Iraq war.

Egyptian Comment -- MENA reported that AL-AKHBAR called on Gulf officials to courageously face the explosive situation in the area, taking a candid stance and facing matters realistically instead of resorting to formalities that do not place things in their true perspective. AL-AKHBAR opined that the Soviets were behind the recent Iranian offensive, basing their plan on fomenting chaos in order to provide an opportunity for intervention in the area.

Iran

Four people were injured when a bomb exploded on 15 May inside the reception office of the Imam Khomeyni Mosque in Tehran, IRNA reported. The bomb exploded just prior to the weekly meeting of the Islamic Association of Bazaar and Guildsmen. According to an AFP report, that same day in Tehran an Islamic clergyman was wounded and his bodyguard and a passerby were killed when gunmen attacked the clergyman's car.

Israel

Policy on Cease-Fire -- The Cabinet decided during its 16 May meeting that Israel will under no circumstances accept the "arbitrary and distorted interpretation" of the cease-fire given by the terrorist organizations, according to a government spokesman's announcement broadcast by Jerusalem television. Noting that Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the Cabinet that Israel has behaved with atypical restraint, the television said Jerusalem circles believe that the entire world, including critics in Israel, should understand that Israel is not looking for a pretext for action. According to Jerusalem radio, the Cabinet agreed that the terrorists should no longer be allowed to operate against Israel anywhere while their concentrations in Lebanon enjoy immunity under the cover of the cease-fire agreement.

Before the Cabinet meeting, Begin held consultations on security policy with the Alignment leaders, according to radio and television reports. The television said it was agreed that Israel will continue to show restraint in everything connected with its activity on the northern border provided the terrorists do not continue to violate the cease-fire.

Aid for Lebanese Christians -- Prime Minister Begin told visiting Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo that Israel has given the Lebanese Christians weapons and ammunition worth $100 million, Jerusalem radio reported on 14 May.

Security Situation -- A bomb exploded in Bet Guvrin on 13 May and another bomb was dismantled in Jerusalem the following day, according to Jerusalem radio reports. An Arab youth was injured in Nabulus on 15 May when IDF soldiers opened fire at demonstrators, ITIM noted.

Relations With Egypt -- Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir said the government will never give up Tabah, according to a 15 May radio report. MENA subsequently noted that Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali had sent a letter to his Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Shamir, calling for international arbitration on the Tabah border problem as soon as possible.

Relations With African States -- Foreign Minister Shamir said in a 16 May Jerusalem radio interview that Zaire's decision to renew diplomatic relations with Israel is extremely good news and that other African states are certain to follow suit. Gabon is now expected to resume relations, according to the radio.

A Zairian presidential envoy said in remarks broadcast by IDF radio that his country's embassy will be situated in Jerusalem.

Lebanon

A Lebanese Army communique broadcast by Beirut radio on 15 May announced that men of Ahmad al-Khatib's Arab Army of Lebanon had ambushed three Lebanese Army jeeps on the Sidon-Beirut road, killing one soldier and wounding nine others. Later the same day, two men were killed by gunfire in Sidon, according to the radio. Further clashes between armed organizations erupted in the city on 16 May, the radio noted. Voice of Lebanon radio said the clashes were between Nasirites and Palestinian groups.

PLO

Plans for Lebanon, Cease-Fire Policy — In a 15 May meeting the PLO's Supreme Military Council adopted contingency plans to counter a potential Israeli threat to southern Lebanon, the clandestine Voice of Palestine reported. The radio also reported that PLO Deputy Military Commander in Chief Khalil al-Wazir said in an interview with the Beirut weekly MONDAY MORNING THAT the PLO wants to keep the cease-fire in southern Lebanon but this does not mean it will restrict its struggle against the "Zionist occupation inside the occupied homeland and across other borders.

Visits -- PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi may visit the United States in mid-June at the invitation of a group of congressmen, AFP reported citing Lebanon's AN-NAHAR. Meanwhile, Delhi radio noted that PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit India on 21 May.

Steadfastness and Confrontation Front

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Algeria on 15 May for talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, Algiers radio reported. The two leaders discussed the convening of a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit conference in the near future, Damascus radio said. In a press statement on their talks broadcast by Damascus television, Al-Asad and Bendjedid announced that front foreign ministers will meet in Algiers before the end of May. The statement also called on all Arab states to adhere to the Baghdad summit resolutions and to stop any attempt to restore relations with Egypt since the causes for severing those relations still exist.

Earlier, Al-Asad held talks in Tripoli with Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on ways to confront attempts to "Arabize" the Camp David conspiracy, according to Damascus radio. Among the Libyans attending the discussions with the Syrian delegation was Armed Forces Chief of Staff Brig Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Tripoli radio noted. SPA and SUNA had previously reported that Al-Kharrubi was recently wounded in an abortive coup attempt.

Libya

A PRC delegation arrived in Tripoli on 16 May, Tripoli radio reported. The delegation leader said the visit is designed to "enhance" Chinese-Libyan cooperation.

Egypt

Arrests -- Interior Minister Maj Gen Hasan Abu Basha announced that on 14 May police arrested the leaders of a new branch of the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation (Takfir), MENA reported.

New Governors -- President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree appointing seven new governors, according to MENA.

Sudan

President Ja'far Numayri appointed new ministers for agriculture and irrigation and education and guidance and also replaced the governor of Al-Jazirah, SUNA reported on 15 May.

Pakistan

The eight-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy called for the release of political prisoners including retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan and Benazir Bhutto, AFP reported on 16 May.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 095 17 May 1982

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Indian Delegation Holds Talks in Kabul C 1
Meeting With Karmal C 1
Joint Commission Meets C 1
Dost on Indian Stand [Delhi] C 1
BAKHTAR Comments on Afghan-Indian Relations C 2
Iraqi Envoy Delivers Husayn Message to Karmal C 3
Cotton Sale Contract Signed With PRC 14 May C 3

INDIA

Gonsalves Statement on Upcoming Talks With PRC E 1
Further Details E 1
Talks With PRC Delegation Begin in New Delhi E 2
Report on Delegation's Arrival E 2
Talks Begin E 2
Delegation Feted at Dinner E 2
Pakistan's Yaqub Khan Rejects Friendship Treaty E 2
Further Details E 3
Gandhi: Pakistan Not Adhering to Simla Accord E 3
Team Leaves for Joint Commission Talks in Kabul E 3
Iraqi Envoy on Hopes for Cease-Fire With Iran [AFP] E 4
Briefs: UK-Aided Powerplant; Destroyed Wheat Crops; Incidents of Labor Unrest, Strikes E 4

PAKISTAN

Yaqub Khan Comments on Relations With India F 1
Further Details F 1

IRAN

Khomeyni Warns Nations Against Assisting Iraq I 1
Kuwait Will Suffer 'Damage' for Aiding Iraq I 2
Foreign Ministry Statement on GCC Session I 2
Musavi Comments on Arab View of Gulf War I 3
Musavi on Extending Gulf War, Egyptian Role [AFP] I 4
Rafsanjani Suggests Plan To Liberate Palestine I 4
Iranian Official, PDRY Envoy Discuss Egypt I 5

Official, Libyan Envoy Discuss Egypt, War I 5
Velayati Congratulates Algerian Counterpart I 6
Ground Forces Commander Interviewed on War I 6
Joint Communique 21 on Recent Operations I 7
Diplomats, Mayors Invited To Inspect Hoveyzeh I 7
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 905 I 8
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 906 I 8
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 908 I 9
Khomeyni 'Has Not Allowed' Advance Into Iraq I 10
Explosion in South Tehran Mosque Injures 4 I 10
Bomb 'Response to Regime' [Free Voice of Iran] I 10
Clergyman Attacked, Bodyguard Killed in Tehran [AFP] I 11
Soviet 'Bombing Error' in Afghanistan Noted I 11

INDIAN DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS IN KABUL

Meeting With Karmal

LD161924 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon received Mr Natwar K. Singh, deputy foreign minister of India, at the Revolutionary Council headquarters and talked to him about various aspects of the friendly and traditional relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of sincerity, the Indian deputy foreign minister delivered a message from Mrs Gandhi to Babrak Karmal and conveyed Mrs Gandhi's cordial greetings and best wishes for the prosperity and development of the DRA and the people of Afghanistan.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost, Indian Ambassador in Kabul J.N. Dixit and [name indistinct], the political director at the Indian Foreign Ministry, were also present.

Joint Commission Meets

LD160650 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0536 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Kabul, 15 May (BAKHTAR) -- Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, received Natwar Singh, deputy minister of foreign affairs of India, in his office today.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and issues related to the work of the Indo-Afghan joint commission.

The joint Indo-Afghan commission on economic, technical and commercial relations held its first session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA here today.

At the outset, Sakhi Daneshjo and Natwar Singh, the heads of the delegations of the DRA and India respectively, spoke on the Afghan-Indian traditional friendships and consolidation of these relations after the April Revolution, particularly in its new evolutionary phase.

Afterwards working committees were formed to ass[illegible] the various subjects.

The working groups will continue their sessions in the coming days.

The Indian delegation later attended a dinner party hosted by Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, at the reception hall of Afghan Foreign Ministry.

Attending the party were Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, deputy-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, and Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce of the DRA, a number of deputy ministers and high-ranking officials of the ministries as well as members of the staff of the Indian Embassy in Kabul.

Dost on Indian Stand

BK160719 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost has expressed satisfaction over the Indian understanding of the situation in and around his country. In an interview with the Soviet daily IZVESTIYA, he said India has always taken a very clear position on the issue within the Nonaligned Movement and international forums.

BAKHTAR COMMENTS ON AFGHAN-INDIAN RELATIONS

LD160848 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Kabul, 15 May, (BAKHTAR) -- Commenting on the friendly relations between the DRA and India and resumption of the activity of the joint commission for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries, the political observer of BAKHTAR information agency writes:

The relations of friendship between Afghanistan and India have deep historical roots. And the historical and cultural similarities between the peoples of the two countries have played a valuable role in continuing and developing these relations. However, with the lapse of time these relations have been consolidated then ever before. [sentence as received]

The joint struggle of the two peop es against imperialism and reaction, defending the cause of peace and security in South and Southwest Asia and all the world have brought the peoples and the Governments of Afghanistan and India more closer than at any other time.

Afghanistan and India who are among the founders of the Nonaligned Movement, from the very inception of this powerful movement till now have carried on a struggle for the cause of peace and security.

Both countries have made a valuable contribution in raising the prestige of the powerful Non-Aligned Movement.

The Afghan-Indian relations are a constant struggle towards establishment and consolidation of peace and security in the [words indistinct] the world, non-interference in the affairs of each other and mutual understanding, have been transformed into a powerful factor in the region.

In contrast to our Eastern and Western neighbours who have taken a hostile stand against our victorious revolution India has invariably expressed its positive understanding towards our irreversible revolution.

Proposals of May 14, 1980, and August 24, 1981, of the DRA which form the wise basis for settling the issues around Afghanistan by peaceful means, met with positive response and understanding on the part of the friendly people of India.

The constructive proposals put forward by the DRA are a step towards ensuring peace in the region. The peoples of Afghanistan and India on the basis of friendly and historic relations and common struggle against world imperialism and reaction of the region, these common enemies of the working people of the two countries are in solidarity with each other in defending the just cause and ideas of each other.

The common struggle of the peoples of the DRA and the Republic of India against their common enemy has a deep and unbreakable link with the growth and the development of their relations in all spheres of social life.

The all-sided and durable cooperation between the two countries will no doubt make a worthy contribution to the question of development, social progress, and in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

The atmosphere of mutual understanding between Afghanistan and India will help considerably in the accomplishment of the common tasks that the two countries are trying to fulfil, and make a valuable contribution to the resolution of similar economic and social problems of the two countries.

The endeavours of our people for repelling and eliminating the undeclared war of aggression of American imperialism and Chinese hegemonism against our country have met with a positive response on the part of the Indian people often as they themselves had often been the victim of the hostile intrigues of these devilish forces.

The reactivation of the joint commission on economic and technical cooperation between Afghanistan and India is not only a vivid example of the good amicable relations between the peoples of the two countries, but is also an important factor towards ever-increasing development of these relations, expecially economic cooperation.

The visit of the Indian delegation to our country to participate in the sessions of the joint commission on economic and technical cocperation between Afghanistan and India is another important event in the history of relations between the two countries.

The joint commission will explore and study the problem of expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of small scale industries, public health and agriculture.

The activity of the joint commission on economic and technical cooperation will no doubt serve the interests of both countries and the fruitful outcome of the activities of this commission will help to further consolidate and deepen the relations between the peoples of Afghanistan and India.

Our government and people always welcome friendly and amicable relations with the people of India and spare no effort in developing and expanding these relations in all spheres of life.

Welcoming the reactivation and revival of the activity of this joint commission we take it as a glad tidings in the relations between the two countries and look forwa d to its fruitful results.

IRAQI ENVOY DELIVERS HUSAYN MESSAGE TO KARMAL

LD151530 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this morning received 'Abd al-Qadir Izz ad-Din Hammadi, special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and spoke with him in a friendly atmosphere about subjects of mutual interest. The Iraqi president's special envoy handed the message from Saddam Husayn to Babrak Karmal at this meeting.

Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost and the Iraqi charge were present at this meeting.

According to another report the Iraqi president's special envoy left Kabul this afternoon. At Kabul airport he was seen off by Yaqubi, minister of education and training, deputy foreign minister, director of the International and UN Relations Department and deputy head of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; by Hassan Ibrahim al-Ozma, Iraqi charge in Kabul, and a number of the members of this embassy in Kabul.

COTTON SALE CONTRACT SIGNED WITH PRC 14 MAY

LD140543 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0425 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Kabul, 13 May (BAKHTAR) — A contract for the sale of 2000 tons of ginned cotton was concluded between the Ministry of Mines and Industries of the DRA and the office of commercial councillor of People's Republic of China here today. Under this contract, the Bost Cotton Enterprise will deliver 1000 tons of ginned cotton of the first grade and 1000 tons of the second grade at a total price of two millions and 750 thousand dollars to the Chinese side by the end of August, 1982.

GONSALVES STATEMENT ON UPCOMING TALKS WITH PRC

BK150855 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0831 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] The following is a statement by Eric Gonsalves on 14 May 1982:

"We are looking forward to the visit of His Excellency Fu Hao, special envoy of the PRC, and his delegation. The discussions we will be having are in continuation of the talks already held in Beijing in December last year as decided by our foreign ministers when they met in June 1981.

"We will address ourselves to all bilateral matters, including the resolution of the boundary question and exchanges in various fields. It would be impossible for me to spell out our precise position on these matters in advance of our actual discussions. It would also be premature to forecast the results. To us the normalisation of relations and indeed the enhancement of relations with a great neighbour like China has a high priority. This requires an honourable and mutually acceptable solution of problems such as the boundary. We will certainly continue our efforts to attain this goal.

"I would only add that we were received in Beijing in the most friendly and cordial manner which it is our hope to be able to reciprocate. We believe that both delegations are approaching the forthcoming talks in a positive and constructive attitude so that we will be able to make progress."

Gonsalves however did not expect any breakthrough on the boundary issue during the forthcoming talks. He pointed out that the boundary question is difficult and complex. It is central to the relationship between the two countries. He said it is not possible to isolate this central issue from others. We can build up our relations in other fields but if this main question is left unresolved it will have its reflections elsewhere.

Replying to a question about Sikkim, Gonsalves said we regard this matter as settled.

Further Details

BK141424 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Eric Gonsalves expressed the hope that both the Indian and the Chinese delegations will approach the forthcoming official-level talks in a positive and constructive manner so that they are able to make progress. Addressing pressmen in New Delhi today he said the talks beginning next Monday [17 May] will cover all bilateral matters including resolution of the boundary issue. The official Chinese delegation led by special envoy of the People's Republic of China Fu Hao is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow.

Gonsalves said India attaches high priority to building up of relations with a great neighbor like China. He reiterated the Indian stand that the border question is central to our relationship. Unless an honorable and mutually acceptable solution to this problem is found it will have its reflection on other facets of our relations.

Gonsalves did not rule out fresh Chinese proposals to solve this problem. He recalled the statement made by the external affairs minister in Parliament and said that there were very wide differences between perceptions of the two sides during the first round of official-level talks. Although both the sides will be continuing their efforts to narrow down this gap, no breakthrough may occur during the present round either, Gonsalves added. However, he expressed the hope that the talks will be held in most friendly and cordial atmosphere.

TALKS WITH PRC DELEGATION BEGIN IN NEW DELHI

Report on Delegation's Arrival

BK160711 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] An 11-member Chinese delegation has arrived in New Delhi for the second round of official-level talks with India. The delegation is led by special envoy of the People's Republic of China Fu Hao.

The talks, which begin tomorrow, will cover bilateral matters including the boundary issue. The Indian side for the 4-day discussions will be led by Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Eric Gonsalves. The first round of official-level talks was held in Beijing in December last.

Talks Begin

BK170800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Talks between India and China on bilateral relations and other matters began in New Delhi this morning. The Indian delegation is led by the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Eric Gonsalves, and the Chinese delegation by the special envoy, Fu Hao. The talks are slated to last 4 days.

Delegation Feted at Dinner

BK170320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Official-level discussions between India and China begin in New Delhi today. The tone for the discussions was set at a dinner last night hosted by Eric Gonsalves, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, in honor of the Chinese special envoy, Fu Hao, and the Chinese delegation.

In the dinner speeches, representatives of both the countries expressed their determination and sincere desire to work for resolving the boundary issues, which they both agree were crucial to the bilateral relations.

Gonsalves expressed India's determination and sincerity to resolve the outstanding boundary problems. Fu Hao said that he has come to New Delhi for a full and frank exchange. He expressed gratitude for the warm reception accorded to the Chinese delegation on arrival.

Fu Hao pointed out that India and China account for vast areas of the globe and their population is one-third of mankind. Everybody in the world understands the weight and significance of the population of the two countries. The Sino-Indian friendship, therefore, is not only in the interest of the two people, but also vital for world peace and stability, he added.

Earlier in the evening, Gonsalves and Fu Hao had an informal meeting for about 30 minutes.

PAKISTAN'S YAQUB KHAN REJECTS FRIENDSHIP TREATY

BK141607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan has rejected India's proposal for a friendship treaty. The offer was made by Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi for creating an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation between the two countries. The news agency UPI quotes Yaqub Khan as saying in Abu Dhabi that the friendship treaty can be a second step to a no-war pact. He, however, expressed his government's readiness to discuss the establishment of a joint commission as suggested by India.

Further Details

BK161616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Diplomatic observers today expressed surprise at Pakistan's persistent refusal to even acknowledge India's proposal of the friendship treaty, let alone respond to it. The latest indication of Pakistan's attitude came from two statements last night -- one by President Ziaul Haq and the other by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. Both of them sought to convey the impression that the friendship proposal was not a formal one.

General Zia told newspaper editors in Rawalpindi that Mrs Gandhi had only casually mentioned the friendship treaty while replying to a question of a Pakistani journalist.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the same thing on his return from a tour of West Asian countries.

Diplomatic observers note that the statements are contrary to facts as reported by then Foreign Minister Agha Shahi on return from New Delhi after talks with his Indian counterpart, Narasimha Rao.

The official news agency of Pakistan, ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, while reporting Agha Shahi's news conference at the Lahore Airport had quoted Shahi as having said that Mrs Gandhi's offer of a friendship treaty was referred to by the Indian side during the talks.

GANDHI: PAKISTAN NOT ADHERING TO SIMLA ACCORD

BK151640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] The prime minister has said that Pakistan is not adhering to the Simla accord after its present military rulers came to power. Mrs Gandhi said India sincerely wants friendship with Pakistan, but it has to be forged with dignity and honor. She said on the one hand Pakistan is talking of a no-war pact with India, but on the other it has been acquiring sophisticated offensive weapons.

Speaking at a number of public meetings in Himachal Pradesh today, Mrs Gandhi paid compliments to the brave sons of the state who are serving the army and are always ready to defend the country. Mrs Gandhi said the people should think of stable governments so that the country's integrity and sovereignty can be defended and it can be moved rapidly toward economic self-sufficiency.

Mrs Gandhi said all the efforts of her government are directed at mopping up the entire resources for development. She called for the preservation of forests in the interest of maintaining ecological balance and for the beauty of the hills. She said afforestation of the Himalayas is of great importance for tourists as well as for checking soil erosion. The planning commission has been advised to give greater attention to the development of these areas.

Mrs Gandhi criticized the Bhartiya Janata Party for creating communal disharmony in the country.

TEAM LEAVES FOR JOINT COMMISSION TALKS IN KABUL

BK141011 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] The Indian team for the India-Afghan joint commission meeting left New Delhi for Kabul this morning. The team, which includes officials of the Ministries of External Affairs, Commerce, Industry and Health, is led by the secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Natwar Singh. The joint commission starts its 3-day meeting in Kabul.

Natwar Singh is carrying a personal message of Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi for Afghan President Babrak Karmal.

IRAQI ENVOY ON HOPES FOR CEASE-FIRE WITH IRAN

BK170641 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] New Delhi, 17 May (AFP) -- Iraq is hopeful that its war with Iran would end before the Baghdad non-aligned summit in September, an Iraqi presidential envoy told the Indian news agency UNI here today.

'Abd al-Qadir Izz ad-Din Hammadi, Iraqi education minister [as received] and special envoy, said that Iraq was ready for a cease-fire since it has no territorial ambition.

We are willing to vacate Iranian territory if our frontiers were guaranteed [word indistinct], he was quoted as saying.

Mr Hammadi stopped over here on his way to Nepal from Pakistan on a South and South-East Asian tour.

Asked whether Iraq would allow Iran navigation rights in the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, he said Iraq had sovereignty over the waterway.

However, he emphasised that a cease-fire must precede any negotiation to settle the dispute.

He said his government was going ahead with last-minute preparations for holding the non-aligned summit conference. More than 50 countries have already confirmed their participation.

BRIEFS

UK-AIDED POWERPLANT -- The National Thermal Power Corporation and the Northern Engineering Industries -- a British consortium -- signed an agreement in New Delhi on 15 May for installation of the 1,000-megawatt superthermal power station at Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. The matter, which was under consideration for some time, was agreed to in principle during the prime minister's visit to the United Kingdom. Under the agreement, the British firm will supply, erect and commission all equipment systems of the power station. The British credit for the purpose is estimated at over 4,150 million rupees. The loan will bear a lower rate of interest and is to be repaid in 15 years. The first 500-megawatt unit is expected to be commissioned within 5 years. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 82 BK]

DESTROYED WHEAT CROPS -- New Delhi, 16 May (AFP) -- An estimated million tonnes of the wheat crop have been destroyed by recent heavy rains in north India, Indian newspapers said today quoting several food experts. About 10 percent of the crop has been lost in the northern Punjab and Haryana states where the rain fell. The two states produce about 11 million tonnes of wheat. However an official quoted in the FINANCIAL EXPRESS said "it is too premature to say" whether India will have to make up the difference with wheat imports, contrary to reports. Despite the loss, India is expected to produce around 36.5 million tonnes of wheat this year, a record so far. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0627 GMT 16 May 82 BK]

INCIDENTS OF LABOR UNREST, STRIKES -- New Delhi, 16 May (AFP) -- Inter-union rivalries in India have helped to create a climate of "distrust and indiscipline adversely affecting" industrial production in the country, according to an Interior Ministry annual report for 1981-82. Incidents of labour unrest and strikes involving violence increased from 3,028 in 1980 to 4,182 in 1981. Strikes involving violence accounted for 18.9 percent of all incidents of labour unrest in 1981 as against 17.9 percent during the previous year, the report said. While recorded incidents of labour unrest were as high as 6,258 in 1977 and 6,666 in 1978, there were comparatively fewer strikes involving violence during these years. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 16 May 82 BK]

YAQUB KHAN COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA

BK160851 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 May 82

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has expressed the confidence that the interests of India and Pakistan will be best served by an early conclusion of the proposed nonaggression pact. Talking to newsmen at Karachi airport this evening on his return after a fortnight's tour abroad, he said the grounds can be effectively prepared to this effect for the promotion of mutual friendship and cooperation.

He said the idea of a treaty of peace and friendship between Pakistan and India was mentioned by Mrs Indira Gandhi to the Pakistani journalists during the course of a discussion on the nature and scope of the Indo-Soviet treaty of 1981. However, this matter was not pursued as it was realized that such a treaty was premature.

He said the principal objective of the nonaggression pact was to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence. He said the statement by the Indian side in the joint communique issued after the Indian prime minister's recent visit to Saudi Arabia that India has proposed a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan has not altered the factual position.

Referring to the proposal about the establishment of a joint commission, the foreign minister said there is no element of doubt or amiguity about this. Pakistan had welcomed the proposal in principle and was prepared to discuss the terms of reference, composition and other aspects of the commission at a mutually convenient time. The discussion on the proposal is therefore an ongoing process and as agreed by foreign ministers of the two countries in the joint statement issued on 1st of February last the officials of the two countries are to meet in Islamabad to continue exchanges on the substance of the proposal. The foreign minister made it clear that there is no controversy or confusion on that point.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan described his visit as successful. He said he attended the Al-Quds Committee meeting in Morocco and later visited Jidda and some of the Gulf countries to establish personal contacts.

Further Details

BK161643 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that as far as Pakistan is concerned our stand on relations with India is clearly evident and nobody should have any doubts or suspicions about this. Talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport this evening, he said that only yesterday he had made a detailed statement on Indo-Pakistan relations on his arrival in Karachi after his visit abroad.

The foreign minister made this observation when his attention was drawn toward the statement of Indian Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in which she had alleged that the present Pakistani Government was not observing the Simla Agreement. He said he did not know which aspects of the Simla Agreement the Indian prime minister was referring to. He said he would not be able to say anything on this matter until he had received the official text of Mrs Gandhi's statement through Pakistan's ambassador to India.

In reply to a question whether he expected any significant progress at the Geneva talks on the Afghanistan problem, the foreign minister said that it was in itself an indication of progress that the talks on this issue were being held. He said that the agenda of the Geneva talks included the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, the return of the refugees to their homes in dignity and with safety, noninterference in the internal affairs of others and international guarantees in this regard.

KHOMEYNI WARNS NATIONS AGAINST ASSISTING IRAQ

LD161340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 82

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni on 16 May at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran to a group of religious students and personnel of the Islamic Propaganda Supreme Council -- recorded, duration 20 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The question of propaganda is a question which has been stressed ever since the dawn of Islam. At present, too, it has a special priority.

All the revolutions that have occurred in the world have either been inclined to the right with the support of rightists and opposed by leftists, or they have been inclined to the left. But because Islam is neither inclined to the West nor to the East and follows the straight path, and because the Islamic Republic has also been based on this interpretation of Islam, leftists oppose it because it does not favor the left and the rightists oppose it because it does not lean to the right. That is why, as you have noted, almost all the big mass media of the world are directly or indirectly opposing this Islamic principle and Islam. They devote many hours of the day and night to crushing the Islamic Republic. On the other hand they support people like Saddam.

Ever since the beginning, when I lived in the holy city of An-Najaf, I declared that he was a dangerous man. I said then that there is a strange obsession in this man which makes him drown all nations of the world in their own blood for his own satisfaction. I convinced them to oppose him and attack him. Even now that, with the help of God Almighty, the fate of the war is being determined and Saddam, and God willing, the Ba'thist Party's downfall is imminent, the mass media cannot accept that Iran has made progress and therefore have begun a new kind of poison spreading. They say that even if the republic succeeds in defeating Iraq and the Iraqi regime, there will still remain the question of what they are going to do about the region and the sheykhdoms and other regimes of the region and Iran's behavior towards them. This is being rumored and spread by the mass media in order to make these countries do something against Iran and the Islamic Republic.

I would like to declare the following point so that it will go down in history: The Government of Iran and the nation of Iran do not have anything against nations and organizations which are not corrupt. From the beginning we announced that we do not have our eyes on other territories and, in fact, land, nature and the material world are not highly regarded by us. Therefore, we would not start a war with Muslim countries for these materialistic reasons.

These are plots hatched by those opposing Islam, rebels of the world and their bosses. They believe that all the oppressed people of the world should be crushed in order to come to power. Islam condemns such an approach and since we follow Islam and since our nation is committed to Islamic principles we would never go against the teachings of Islam. We announce that these governments of the region or other governments outside the region should note that they are being forced into abjectness to secure the interests of the United States or some other countries.

We have repeatedly warned them that they are becoming puppets in the hands of the superpowers and that they are being used. They are told that if they do not cooperate with Saddam, such and such will happen and Iran will treat you in such and such a way. The superpowers would like the countries of the region to remain as puppets and follow their will, cooperate with Saddam and fall into the same trap that Saddam fell into.

These countries should realize that if Saddam is victorious and powerful he will not show his appreciation for the support he has received. Saddam is the sort of man who would follow his own ambitions and would wage war against all those who cooperated with him, in order to destroy them if possible.

I, together with the government and the nation of Iran, announce that if these countries do not cooperate with Saddam, if they treat us according to the holy Koran and treat other nations the same way, the government and the nation of Iran will treat them as brothers and will support them. But if, God forbid, they act subversively and fall into that trap, they can be sure that, not being stronger than Saddam, they will suffer the same fate, and they will see what will become of other countries like the Government of Egypt which want to help them. I advise them not to embark on this experiment, not to push innocent young people to their deaths.

Those who stay awake at nights to pray and meditate will, of course, become victorious in the war. You can rest assured that Saddam and his followers are drawing their last breaths. I hope Islam will show its brilliant face everywhere and that God Almighty will assist our forces and add to their power. Our people are behind our forces and support them; our clergy support them too. With their pure hearts and strong arms they should continue their work. God willing, victory is near.

We beseech Almighty God to help us and make our armed forces and our nation victorious. May all of you succeed in shining the light of Islam everywhere. We hope you gentlemen will succeed in your work. Peace be upon you all.

KUWAIT WILL SUFFER 'DAMAGE' FOR AIDING IRAQ

LD170934 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 17 May (IRNA) -- Prime Minister Musavi in his press conference yesterday said that Iran would never accept an imposed peace in the Iraqi imposed war and as long as Iran did not achieve its due rights the war would continue. He said the condition for the establishment of peace in the region was Saddam's overthrow.

The prime minister continued that Iran had always announced its desire for establishing peace and security in the Persian Gulf region.

He concluded that Kuwait still continued to grant aid to Iraq and its mass media still distorted war reports and as result he said it would suffer damage because of its hostility with Iran and with the great Islamic revolution.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON GCC SESSION

LD150928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 May 82

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran -- date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With the great victories of the combatants of Islam on the battlefronts of the Iraqi-imposed war upon Iran, world arrogance, headed by America, fully exploiting the imperialist and Zionist mass media, is trying to end Egypt's self-imposed isolation from other Arab countries, brought about after the completion of the first phase of the disgraceful Camp David accord, by providing overall Egyptian support for the disintegrating Iraqi regime and ultimately is trying to halt the great movement of the Muslim masses toward Jerusalem [bayt al-moqaddas]. Second, by inciting the fear that after Saddam's fall instability will spread in the region, it is trying to provoke the countries of the region into total confrontation against Islamic Iran in order to legitimize its presence and the presence of its associates in this important part of the Islamic world.

In this connection, the GCC countries, who will meet in emergency session in Kuwait to coordinate their policies, intend to review the recent changes in the region and the latest outcome of the Iraqi war against Iran. On the eve of this meeting the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran deems it necessary to emphasize and stress the following points:

1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has announced many times before and has emphasized during its contacts with the leaders of some of the friendly countries in the GCC, believes that it is up to the nations of the region to make any decision about their countries; on this basis Iran rejects any sort of interference in the affairs of these countries.

2. Saddam's regime, because of its anti-Islamic and anti-people's nature, is the cause of continued tension in the region and is doomed. If the governments which have helped to prolong this regime and its crimes against the Islamic nation in Iran and in the region through their overall support do not sever their links by the logical analysis of the situation and if they do not dissociate themselves from it as soon as possible they will undoubtedly suffer.

3. The thundering victories achieved by the combatants of Islam and the disgraceful defeat and surrender of Saddam's mercenaries are clear signs of the superiority of faith over equipment and indicate the great power of the Islamic revolution. It is appropriate for the countries of the region to recall the historical examples of disgraceful defeats inflicted upon the massive machine of world arrogance by the Islamic and popular movements and to realize that it would not be possible to guarantee real stability for the region without taking this power into account.

4. The Muslim nation and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran value every righteous step, no matter how small, taken by any country of the region in the direction of standing with the Islamic Republic of Iran for the restoration of stability and security and for the purpose of practical struggle against imperialism and Zionism, and they will take any such step into account in future relations with these governments. Similarly, it will decisively react against any wrong move undertaken.

MUSAVI COMMENTS ON ARAB VIEW OF GULF WAR

LD162240 Tehran IRNA in English 2021 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 16 May (IRNA) -- Prime Minister Musavi said here today that the reason for the defeat of the conference of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in Kuwait was "the imposition of realities" which he said stemmed from the victories of the Islamic combatants in the warfronts forcing the countries in the region to adopt separate decisions in keeping with their national interests. This is why, added Musavi, they had not reached a common [word indistinct]. Speaking in a press conference here Mr. Musavi referred to the important role played by Arab countries friendly to Iran and said that the steadfastness front which was a strong opponent of Zionism and imperialism was standing alongside the Islamic Republic. Speaking about the efforts of certain reactionary Arab countries to return Egypt to the (?Arab fold), the prime minister said the most basic role in this connection was played by Saudi Arabia's mass media before the convening of the conference that the danger of the Islamic revolution was more important than the one of the Zionist regime. [Sentence as received] Therefore, concluded the prime minister, it was no surprise [words indistinct] see these countries acting in the interest of (?Iraq) which was an ally of the Zionist regime.

Referring to the intervention of Jordan and Egypt in the imposed war, the prime minister said that this intervention was a part of the intervention of the superpowers in the imposed war, adding that the propaganda of the world mass media clearly showed that the superpowers also were playing a role in the war. He said that presently in the Eastern bloc it was said that the war was in the interest of the US and vice-versa which the prime minister said showed that the Iraqi imposed war was to the disadvantage of the world's superpowers, particularly because it was a demonstration of the righteousness of the Islamic combatants of Iran in the international scene. In another part of the interview the prime minister reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran did not intend to invade Iraqi territory or any other territory.

MUSAVI ON EXTENDING GULF WAR, EGYPTIAN ROLE

NC162222 Paris AFP in English 2212 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 16 May (AFP) -- Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi tonight did not rule out the possibility that Iranian forces might invade Iraq, as peace in the Gulf war could only be ensured by the fall of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In a televised news conference Mr Musavi said Iran could not accept a peace "imposed by the super-powers or their agents in the region who seek to save the Saddam regime."

Asked whether the war would end when Iranian troops reached the international frontier with Iraq, the Iranian premier said: "If the region wants peace, the Saddam regime must disappear. We will do whatever Islam considers to be defence."

He said Saturday's meeting of foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (grouping Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar) had been "a setback" as recent Iranian victories had changed the region's politics, causing the council's members to act in their national interests rather than reach a common position.

Mr Musavi renewed Iranian warnings to Kuwait against stubbornly continuing to aid Iraq, which he said would have "negative consequences" for Kuwait and other countries which helped Baghdad.

On Egyptian aid to Iraq, the prime minister said that sending Egyptian troops to Iraq could not only set the whole region ablaze but could bring down Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

He added that an extension of the Gulf war was "in the interest of our revolution and the Islamic revolution in the whole world."

Asked whether Iran and Syria might cooperate to pursue the war, Mr Musavi replied: "We have a coordinated foreign policy against imperialism and Zionism, but there is nothing more than that."

RAFSANJANI SUGGESTS PLAN TO LIBERATE PALESTINE

LD162026 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 16 May (IRNA) -- An organised volunteer army comprising forces from various Islamic countries could serve to liberate Palestine, said Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The speaker, who was speaking in an interview with the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] magazine, PAYAM-E ENQELAB, suggested a volunteer force be mobilised to free Palestine, in addition to the Golan Battalion formerly suggested to be made up of Iraqi POWs in Iran volunteering to fight for the Palestinian goals. He said each Islamic country such as Iran could include its volunteers in the force to be mobilised in one place.

Speaking on the liberation movements, the speaker of the Majlis [words indistinct] was a very delicate issue since they had to (?be backed) and at the same time, government policies had to be abided by. He added that various liberation movements could grow following the path of revolutionary Iran. He said the reason the section pertaining to the liberation movements had been omitted in the IRGC Charter was because the Majlis needed a more specific bill in that connection and that more time had to be spent to clarify pertinent issues before the Majlis, so that Iran would back only sound movements.

He announced a separate section should deal with the liberation movements, instead of discussing the issue in the IRGC Charter in several clauses.

When asked why Iran had relations with countries which were not completely independent, the Majlis speaker said Iran could not find another country in the world which was totally independent, and even if they were, they were not sufficient to meet Iran's needs. He said Iran always abided by the dictum "Neither East nor West," but added that this did not exclude establishing relations with various countries but only ruled out entering into alignment. Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani then said following that line, Syria, Libya and Algeria were the closest Arab countries to Iran for which Iran held the deepest respect.

When asked about Iraq's future in light of the Iranians' recent victories bringing the war almost to a close, the speaker said the most important matter for Iraq was for it to have a popular government in the future accepted by the Iraqi nation.

He then said plans were underway to meet Iran's need for almost 2 million housing units in light of Iran's capacity of building 300,000 housing units per year with each measuring 100-150 sq. metres.

IRANIAN OFFICIAL, PDRY ENVOY DISCUSS EGYPT

LD161830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the PDRY ambassador in Tehran this morning met and conferred with Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, Foreign Ministry political under secretary.

During this meeting, Sheykh ol-Eslam, referring to the plots by the great Satan to strengthen the usurper Zionism by plotting to include Egypt in the Arab League, the Camp David plots and the rumors of Egypt's direct intervention in the war imposed by Iraq against Iran, said that in our view Saddam is finished, although it is very hard for America to accept this. Numbers and equipment can no longer save Saddam. We declare that Egypt's entry into the war would only cause greater turmoil in the region and would have no effect on the outcome of the war, which is the victory of the forces of Islam. He then asked the advanced Arab countries to cooperate more with Iran to foil this plot by the great Satan.

According to our correspondent, the PDRY ambassador, agreeing with the comments of the Foreign Ministry political under secretary, said: We in the PDRY believe that the invitation to Egypt to return to the Arab League is illogical and incompetent, because of Camp David. He added: In our view, for countries like Jordan and Morocco to revive the Arab summit is an attempt to encourage the reactionary and American direction of the region aimed at extending Camp David and at plundering more of the region's wealth. Accepting the challenge to fight against these moves, he said: The present is the best time to unite the view of the progressive regimes of the region to confront such treacherous efforts.

OFFICIAL, LIBYAN ENVOY DISCUSS EGYPT, WAR

GF160557 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Sa'd Mujbir, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Tehran, met today with Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary for the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Explaining the plot by imperialism and agent Arab regimes to return Husni Mubarak's regime to the Arab world, Sheykh ol-Eslam said: With Egypt's joining Iraq in its war imposed on Iran and through the Arab regimes' aid to Iraq, the United States wants them to drop the Zionist entity from memory -- because it is the Arabs' main enemy -- and to engage Iran, which is the biggest ally of the Arabs, in another war. He expressed hope that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will decisively confront and resist the new plot together with the treacherous Camp David plan.

In explaining the war situation Sheykh ol-Eslam said: Saddam has not benefited the Arabs but has been a shame for them. He expressed Iran's support for the Arab Deterrent Force and described its role in preserving Lebanon's sovereignty and unity as very important.

In a reply speech Sa'd Mujbir described Iraq's war imposed on Iran as an indication of Saddam's agentry. He said: If only half of the aid that has been given by the agent regimes to Saddam had been given to Syria in its struggle against the Zionist entity, the situation would be different. By joining Saddam, the agent regimes want to free the hand of the Zionist entity to commit new acts of aggression and expansionism.

VELAYATI CONGRATULATES ALGERIAN COUNTERPART

GF160755 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati has sent a cable to Ahmed Taleb Ebrahimi congratulating him on his appointment as Algerian foreign minister. Dr Velayati expressed his wishes for success for his new Algerian counterpart in expanding and enhancing ties of cooperation and friendship between Algeria and revolutionary Muslim countries and in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and their agents. In this context he lauded the role which martyred Foreign Minister Ben Yahia played in enhancing ties of friendship and cooperation between the Iranian and Algerian Muslim peoples. He wishes the new foreign minister success in fostering these ties.

GROUND FORCES COMMANDER INTERVIEWED ON WAR

LD141658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] According to IRNA, Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi, the commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic, granted an interview to an IRNA reporter at the Karbala' headquarters. In the interview, he expressed his own views on the Jerusalem operation [bayt al-moqaddas] and on the role that theocratic rule, the clergy and propaganda play in the war.

At the beginning of the interview he analyzed the results of the three phases of the successful Jerusalem operations and said: We have mopped up the filth of the Ba'thist invaders' existence in all of the areas and cities of Khuzestan except Khorramshahr. With the succor of God, we are going to end the imposed war in this region of our country.

God willing, we are going to make Saddam's government so shaky that we will be able to obtain our just rights from the Ba'thist invaders, who have ruined our cities and villages and have turned our people into refugees through their imposed war. He added: What Saddam's army did to our villages and cities was worse than what the Mogul army did. We will continue our operations until we regain our just rights and punish Saddam's usurping government.

Commenting on the composition of the forces of Islam during the historic Jerusalem operations, Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi stated: We used a sacred composition of combatants from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Mobilization forces of the Guards Corps and other popular forces. Throughout the operations, this composition was at the height of perfection.

Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi then referred to the committed clergy's role in the war and their presence on the frontlines, and said that the learned clergy's presence on the battlefronts mobilized the spirit of the rule of belief and spirituality in our warriors. [sentence as heard]

Commenting on the role of the commander in chief of the armed forces in the progress of the war, the commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic said: At the start of the movement, the unity and solidarity of the combatants of Islam was purely inspired by the instructive remarks of the imam of the Islamic nation, the commander in chief of the armed forces, who always emphasizes the need for unity among the forces of Islam. We have felt the effects of the instructions of the imam of the Islamic nation throughout the war.

About the role of propaganda in the war, the commander of the ground forces said: Fighting for God's way does not depend solely on training and technique; there is also a need for a growth of culture and propaganda. There has been some tangible progress in this area. By gaining experience and learning from the facts, our clergy, the armed forces, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and those in charge of propaganda affairs are able to take very effective action in order to increase our warriors' spiritual understanding.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE 21 ON RECENT OPERATIONS

LD161120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 82

[Joint communique No 21 of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressors. The epic heroes of the blood-red homeland of the Islamic revolution and the virtuous and steadfast combatants continue their battle against world-wide blasphemy and its criminal agents on the battlefronts, leaving glorious scenes of courage, bravery, selflessness and love on the golden pages of the history of the Islamic revolution.

Oh Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation: In the continuation of the victorious Jerusalem operations [bayt al-moqaddas] which began with the codename 'Ali ibn Abu Talib -- peace be upon his soul -- as a result of which crushing blows were dealt to the corps of the weakened enemy, this morning the combatants of Islam in an intense battle with the invading enemy forces inflicted heavy losses and casualties along the border zone of Kushk to the northwest of Khuzestan.

In these operations, the forces of Islam smashed enemy positions and equipment, destroying 5 tanks, 14 vehicles and a large number of heavy weapons. A considerable number of the aggressive enemy forces were killed or wounded.

In the successful operations today an enemy aircraft was downed by our forces' fire in the border region to the north of Khuzestan at 0830. Its pilot was killed. The number of enemy aircraft downed since the start of the Jerusalem operation amounts to 34.

Also in today's victorious operations the fast-flying eagles of the Airborne Division succeeded in downing two enemy helicopters on the border zone of Kushk. The pilots of the above-mentioned helicopters were also killed.

Hoping for the final victory of the combatants of Islam and the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of occupying Zionism. Seek assistance from God and victory is near.

DIPLOMATS, MAYORS INVITED TO INSPECT HOVEYZEH

GF171000 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Following the destruction of Hoveyzeh by the Saddamist forces, and in the wake of its liberation from these aggressors by the Islamic forces during the Jerusalem operations [bayt al-moqaddas], a special committee was set up yesterday by the Foreign Ministry's military information council under the title: the Committee To Study and Expose Saddam's Crimes in Hoveyzeh.

An invitation has been extended to world circles to see the detestable crimes of the Saddamist regime firsthand. The above-mentioned committee, in its first statement, in which it exposed Saddam's crimes, called on foreign ambassadors in Tehran and world mayors, particularly mayors of the Arab towns in occupied Palestine, to visit Hoveyzeh in order to see the injustice to which its citizens were subjected as well as Saddam's crimes in order to extend their observations to the entire world's population.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 905

LD141740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 82

[Communique No 905 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Continuing their just battle against the mercenary Saddam, the Islamic combative forces, while giving maximum impetus to battlefronts and maintaining their initiative, are keeping up their operations against the enemy.

Having reinforced and fortified their defensive positions in the southern sectors, our forces are maintaining control over enemy positions by continuing their fire. In the occupied sector of Khorramshahr, our navy destroyed one ammunition dump, four bunkers and one observation post and damaged one antiaircraft gun.

Yesterday, Iraqi troops and criminals brought several residential areas in Abadan under heavy and long-range fire and destroyed them. As a result, a number of our countrymen were martyred or wounded.

The total number of Iraqi POW's already evacuated in the course of the Jerusalem operations [bayt al-moqaddas] yesterday reached 5,124. They include 168 officers, 863 NCO's and 4,093 soldiers.

In the western sectors of the country our epic-making combatants dealt more blows to the enemy. In the Marivan area, an Islamic combative unit, supported by artillery fire, penetrated the enemy position in Khormal and, during an offensive, killed, wounded or captured a number of Iraqi troops. Our brave fighters are at present laying seige to an enemy garrison in the same area. A considerable quantity of weapons, including mortars, heavy machineguns, Kalashnikov rifles, ammunition and antipersonnel mines of various types were captured intact by our forces during these operations.

Exchanges of heavy fire continued in Meymak and Konjancham. The exchange of fire, being in our favor, resulted in the destruction of two enemy tanks as well as setting fire to several enemy supply areas and killing a number of aggressors.

In the Sumar area, following artillery fire on enemy positions and bunkers, several supply areas, one munition depot and one Iraqi heavy machinegun with a number of enemy troops were killed.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 906

LD151746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 82

[Communique No 906 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The results of courageous efforts and sacrifices of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation at the fronts of the imposed war are hereby brought to the attention of the dear compatriots: The disintegrating enemy embarked on a series of futile operations on one of the Khorramshahr fronts yesterday afternoon. The powerful forces of Islam repelled these operations and forced the aggressive forces to retreat. Our forces captured a number of tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles belonging to the enemy.

In the exchange of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the combatants of the navy and gendarmerie opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed a number of positions, some trenches, a truck, an ammunition depot and an 82-mm mortar launcher belonging to the Saddamist forces. More than 50 enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded.

Fighting and exchange of fire continued sporadically yesterday on the western fronts and on the Sumar front. The powerful fire of the ground forces' artillery set on fire and destroyed three tanks, an ammunition depot, several light- and heavy-weapons positions as well as observation posts belonging to the Saddamist forces. A number of their forces were killed.

Our forces destroyed a number of the Saddamists' supply points in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb, killed some enemy soldiers and destroyed one of their construction vehicles.

On the Salehabad and Meymak fronts, the intense fire of the ground forces' artillery units destroyed some enemy positions and inflicted casualties on the enemy.

On the Marivan front, our artillery fire crushed Iraqi positions in the Halabcheh region and destroyed a number of their trenches.

During the past 24 hours all of the Iraqi forces' violations of the Iranian airspace in the south and west of the country were foiled by our forces antiaircraft units; the enemy planes were forced to flee.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 908

LD161800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 82

[Communique No 908 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Strong in spirit like those who fought alongside Imam Hoseyn, the combatants of Islam are bravely standing firm against the mercenary enemy and are ready to sacrifice their existence for Islam and the Islamic homeland. Thank God for helping the combatants of Islam with His boundless blessings and for giving them victory over the forces of blasphemy through His divine help.

According to a report by the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today another three enemy aircraft, with the cooperation of air defense units, were downed by this force's fighter aircraft in the southern sector of the country. One of the aforesaid aircraft came down at 0805 today, and the body of its pilot was discovered in the crash area; the other two aircraft were destroyed simultaneously at 1203, and their pilots were captured alive.

At 1315 and 1415 today several of our fighter aircraft, in the course of successful operations, bombed the Al-Umayyah and Al-Bak jetties and returned safely to their bases.

At 1225 yesterday one aggressive Iraqi aircraft was downed by air defense fire in the Susangerd area. Therefore, a total of 37 enemy aircraft have been downed since the beginning of the Jerusalem operations [Bayt al-Moqaddas].

In the southern areas of the country our victorious combatants continued their missions and vigilantly neutralized all enemy movements. Having the initiative, they are defending their positions.

In the Abadan area, the combative personnel of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran returned enemy fire and destroyed one vehicle carrying fuel, one mortar emplacement and seven slit trenches and foxholes of the aggressors, and stopped enemy movements on the other side of the Arvand Rud.

Yesterday Saddam's army opened heavy-weapon fire and destroyed several residential areas in Abadan, which resulted in the injury of our Abadan compatriots.

Exchanges of fire continued in the western operational areas of the country. A group of our combatants penetrated enemy positions in the Tutman area and opened fire, destroying one command base and several vehicles and slit trenches of the enemy, inflicting damage on the Saddamist forces' tanks and killing a number of their servicemen.

In the Meymak, Sumar, Salehabad, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb areas, exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued between the forces of Islam and Saddam's forces. The fire of our artillery units destroyed several ammunition piles, two vehicles and one tank.

In the Nowsud and Shushmir-e Bala areas, a quantity of ammunition and several supply ponts of the Saddamists were destroyed and a group of them were killed or wounded.

May God's help be with those who walk in the path of truth and God.

KHOMEYNI 'HAS NOT ALLOWED' ADVANCE INTO IRAQ

LD141054 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 13 May (IRNA) -- Iranian forces can easily advance inside Iraqi territory but Imam Khomeyni has not allowed it, according to General Zahirnehzhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces. Speaking in an interview with a reporter from the Victoria daily AGE, the Iranian commander also said that even though at the beginning of the war Iranian forces were not fully mobilised they were assured of a long term victory.

Speaking on Iran's military tactics he said that a three stage strategy was adopted: halting enemy advance, local attacks on the enemy and expulsion of invading forces from Iranian territory.

Stressing that Iranians were only defending their territory and revolution, he said that Islamic combatants had tried to take prisoner or wound Iraqis rather than kill them and he pointed to the massive numbers of POWs as testifying to this. The Iranian commander also referred to Iraqi brutality towards POWs in comparison with Iranian behaviour towards Iraqi captives.

EXPLOSION IN SOUTH TEHRAN MOSQUE INJURES 4

LD151042 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 15 May (IRNA) -- A bomb exploded at 8.00 am today inside the reception office of the Imam Khomeyni Mosque, south Tehran, injuring four people slightly.

The bomb, which was planted in a handbag, exploded just prior to the weekly meeting of members of the Islamic association of bazaar and guildsmen which is made up of some 500 committed bazaar members, including Amanti, the Tehran Majlis deputy. Windows of the mosque, where masses of people at Friday nights hold special prayers were broken.

Past experience has shown that any time a victory is achieved in the warfronts counter-revolutionaries carry out such futile activities in a vain attempt to distract the Muslim people's attention from these achievements.

Bomb 'Response to Regime'

GF170718 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 16 May 82

[Excerpts] According to the Free Voice of Iran reporter, there have been quite a few bomb explosions in the cities of our country of which the [word indistinct] bomb explosion in the Shah Mosque of Tehran was the most (?destructive). It probably injured some of the progovernment bazaaris.

So far none of the groups or organizations has officially claimed responsibility for the explosion. From the night pamphlets being circulated in Tehran, however, it may be deduced that an armed group called "the Movement of the Followers of Shari'at" claimed involvement in the explosion.

In the night pamphlets the Shari'at Movement announced that followers of Khomeyni, particularly the hojjati (?Phalangists) and the garbage called followers of his line, the guards, committee members and so-called Islamic organizations will be wiped out. If necessary, because of the despotic conditions, the movement says it will continue its armed campaign and explosions of bombs in the beehives of Khomeyni.

Under these circumstances it is obvious that in light of the present atmosphere in Iran and the barbaric rage of the mullahs' regime there is no solution but to fight [word indistinct] and the massacre of elements of the groups of tyranny and oppression. This bomb is the first response to the regime, a response that will continue.

CLERGYMAN ATTACKED, BODYGUARD KILLED IN TEHRAN

NC151435 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 15 May (AFP) -- An Islamic preacher was wounded and his bodyguard and a passer-by were killed when three armed men disguised as guardians of the revolution attacked his car, it was reported here today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Kafi, a well known clergyman, was attacked this morning while riding in his car in Tehran, the evening newspaper ETTELA'AT said.

His bodyguard and a passer-by were killed and a child injured. He was reported to be in satisfactory condition.

His attackers stopped another car and used it to escape.

SOVIET 'BOMBING ERROR' IN AFGHANISTAN NOTED

LD162032 Tehran IRNA in English 1926 GMT 16 May 82

["Soviet Bombing Error" -- IRNA headline]

[Text] Mashhad, 16 May (IRNA) -- The occupying Soviet forces in Afghanistan mistakenly opened artillery fire on a concentration centre of the Afghan Government's intelligence service near Herat Province last week, destroying the centre and killing a number of soldiers. This was announced by a reliable source close to the Afghan mujahidin. The source further added that the Soviet military forces have kept silent about this and no reaction has been shown by the ruling Afghan Government.

Meanwhile, in another report from Mashhad, in the past two weeks Soviet fighters bombed several villages in Herat Province, martyring some 55 innocent and defenceless villagers and destroying a number of houses.